

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 ARA-16 NEA-11 /192 W

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P R 141445Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7180

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

YPHDK11AMEMBASSY HAGUE 184

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, VN, OAA, FI

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 1974 GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE
LAWS OF WAR

REF: (A) STATE 027026 (B) SAIGON 1450 (C) SAIGON 1796

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTTEL (A), ON FEBRUARY 11 AND 14
POLITICAL OFFICER MADE DEMARCHE RE "PRG" AND LIBERATION
MOVEMENT ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAWS OF
WAR TO FINNISH FONMIN UN SECTION CHIEF, MATTI
KAHILUOTO.

2. ON QUESTION "PRG" ATTENDANCE, FINNS ARE STICKING
TO THEIR BY NOW TRADITIONAL LINE THAT THEY WILL
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ABSTAIN, ON BASIS THAT THEY RECOGNIZE NEITHER GVN

OR "PRG" (READ: THEY ARE STAYING OUT OF GREAT POWER CONFLICT). POLITICAL OFFICER MADE STRONG PITCH FOR VOTE AGAINST, DRAWING HEAVILY ON EXCELLENT REFTELS AND PREVIOUS STATE CABLES, AND RECEIVED SYMPATHETIC HEARING WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO CHANGE FINNISH POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN MADE ON HIGHEST LEVEL.

3. ON QUESTION ATTENDANCE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN GENERAL, AND PAIGC GUINEA-BISSAU IN PARTICULAR, FINNS AGREE WITH US THAT THEY ONLY ENTITLED TO NON-VOTING OBSERVER STATUS IN ACCORDANCE UN PRACTICE. THE FINNS DO NOT EXPECT GUINEA-BISSAU TO SEEK FULL STATUS. IF QUESTION SHOULD COME UP, THEY ARE PRE-DISPOSED TO BEING PER-SUADED TO VOTE AGAINST IT.

WE SUGGEST US DELEGATION DO SO WITH EITHER KAHILUOTO, WHO PRO-AMERICAN, OR FINNISH DELEGATION LEADER PAUL GUSTAFSSON, IF KAHILUOTO NOT ON SPOT ANY LONGER. BOTH WILL ATTEND NORDIC AND OTHER PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS IN GENEVA. THE FINNS SUSPECT THAT GUINEA-BISSAU AND OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MAY SEEK PSEUDO-LEGITIMATE STATUS; I.E., SOME FORM OF SEATING WITH NAME PLATES LIKE THE REGULAR DELEGATIONS, RATHER THAN NORMAL UN PRACTICE OF JUST ALLOWING THEM TO STATE THEIR CASE AT A MICROPHONE. THE FINNS ALSO SUSPECT THAT PALESTINIAN GROUPS WILL SEEK RECOGNITION OR OBSERVER STATUS, IN THEIR VIEW FURTHER COMPLICATING AN ALREADY MESSY SITUATION. KREHBIEG

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